Academy-Robert Downing, in reper-

Grand-Grau's Vaudeville. Kerman's - Minco's City Club.

The season of '97-'98 is about to open Two of our theaters throw wide their doors tomorrow night and flash their electric signs at each end of the Avenue Within two weeks the other three play their temples.

h bert Downing at the Academy this week has three standard classic dignified novelty from St. Louis. The Occidental product is a French play of the last century, "David Laroque" by name. It goes on for the first time Wednesday evening and will thus help swell Washington's reputation as a dog town Mr. Bowning's manager makes a trade mark of the phrase, "and a company who can act," which may be a satirical impeachment of some other star's companies or an intimation of a novelty for those who have seen Mr. D. before. In any sense it is dable to engage "a company who can act;" so many companies have here-tofore been engaged apparently because they could not act. The Academy meets the Grand's prices this year The maxi-mum for reserved seats is 75 cents

The Grand Opera House points proudly to its bookings, all of which are of a dramatic and operatic character except the peaing, which is of the vandeville class. The roster for the preliminary occasion looks good on paper. At the Lyceum Miaco's City Club broaches a little novelty in that it will make a midweek change of bill,

The openings of the Columbia and the Lafayette bave already been announced. The National will have "The Tarrytown Widow" for its first week, but before the widow arrives this house will show the veriscope pictures of the Corbett-Fitzsinnone fight for two weeks. Stuart Robson In a repertoire of revivals, to include "The Henrietta," "The Comedy of Errors," "Sim-Stoops to Conquer," and "The Jucklins" will follow the widow.

The many triends of the Columbia Theater and of Manager Joseph E. Luckett, whose popular tactics bus made this play-house so popular, will hear with regret that he has resigned from the management, and leaves this work for Philadelphia, to as-Mr Luckett bus been with the Metzerott Company for upward of fifteen years, and has grown into the confidence and affect ful of admirers: "The most brilliant work Mr. Metzerott in the management of the popular nessic hall, and gave the Capital the finest artists in the world. When this house was last year rebuilt as Metrerott's Columbia Theater, Mr. Metrerott gave into Mr. Luckett's hands the active man-agement of hishouse. Under him the pretty theater leaped at once into substantial popularity. His methods were standard. eval business-like and popular, and after shoulder with the other first-class house: the public. Mr. Luckett is a young man, with the energy and enthusiasm of youth, but he backs it with judgment and tact We are sorry to see blin po, and can only wish him every good that future can be

Mr. Frank Metzerott will assume the management of the Columbia. Be has been an active and predominant factor in local commercial, musical and dramatic enterprise, and under his liberal poltoy Metherott's Columbia Theater will have Important achievements than marked its

The inquiry is anxiously made whether there's any novelty in store for this season. From the announcements, letters and per-sonal assurances of the players and managers who produce, it may be confidently as-serted that there is to be an abundance of novelty. There are to be several musical productions new to Washington.

We will see the reviews, "The Whirl of the Town" and "One Round of Pleasure;" the musical comedies "The Girl from Paris," "La Poupee," "The French Maid," "In Town," "The Circus Girl" from Daly's; "Bo-Peep," "Jack and the Beanstalk," Frank Daniels in "The Idol's Eye:" Sousa's new opera, "The Bride-Elect." the Russel-Fox-De Angelis trie in "The Wedding Day," and the Ecston-

ians in "The Serenade." Nearly all 'the stars will be newly squipped. Otls Skinner has a new ro mantic play, "Prince Rudolph;" Nat Good win will add "Treadway, of Yale," by Ons Thomas, "Richard Beary Savage," b. Mrs. Ryley, and "The Merchant of Venice" to his present "American Citizen" suc ol Smith Russell will play a triple bill of reveilles besides "A Fachelor's Ro-roance;" W. H. Crane will have "A Vir-ginia Courtship," by Engene Presby, Richard Mansfield will produce "The First Violin" and "Timon of Athens." Her bert Kelcey and Pffie Shannon will proce Madelnine Lucette Ryley's "A Coat of Many Colors," E. H. Sothern will try with Virginia Barned as his leading lady: Mrs. Fiske's great New Tork success, "Tess of the D'Urbevilles," will be new here; Mand Adams will be a new star in a new play, with "The Little Minist er," Walker Whiteside has Stanley Weyman's "The Man in Black;" May Irwin, in "Miss Fitzwell;" Julia Arthur, in Mrs. Burnett's "A Lady of Quality " E. S. Willard has "The Physician," by Henry Arthur Jones; Roland Reed's "Wrong Mr. Wright," and Clay Clement,

in "A Southern Gentleman."

Then there is the long list of general and unchassed dramas and comedies of high and low degree, all new to us "Secret Service," "Never Again," Estille Clayton and Isabelle Evesson in "A their action, is the performance of a national

that may actually be counted upon. As the senson progresses there will of course be other new plays put on and eventually brought to us. Olga Nethersole, De Wolf Hopper, John Brew, Francis Wilson, Georgia .yvan, and Willon Luckaye, have not yet anomiced their new bills. Besides the noveities there are plenty of plays which we will all be glad to see again. Between the two, new and old, there promises to be an abundance of material to block out a thoroughly lateresting and attractive

Everyone heard of the death of Charles Coote with the deepest regret. He was an for passes.

accomplished character actor of serious or "Once Again" the property man, who He had attended rehearsals and was pre-pared to rejoin Roland Reed's "The Wrong next spring. Mr. Wright, "in which he had made his usual "Once Ag

Charlie Coote was one of the most popular of the circle of players who have played summer stock engagements here. Two years year as Robert Spalding in "The Private Secretary," of Which famous character he was the original, the attendance was the largest of any week of the summer. The year before ne had directed the stock at "Once Again" the usher rushes down the the National, and the year previous at Albaugh's His last appearance here was sound like a couple of young cannon going astheGermanmusicteacherin"TheStrange off. Adventures of Miss Brown."

Mr. Coste was related to Sir Charles the row develop Coste, of an old frish family, the founder of close of each act which was once lord lieutenant of Ireland. Mr. Ccote began his career as many English actors have, as chapel boy, and attracted attention when very young at Savoy, England. He played afterward many parts, at both the Court and Haymarket Theaters in London, and had attained a prominent position when he was engaged by A. M. Palmer to appear in "Lights of London," twelve years ago, in New York. He made a success as the Private Secretary, and then appeared under the management of Col. W. E. Sinn, while he was starring Corn Tanner. Afterward he appeared with Wilson Barrett during that actor's American lours, and two years ago made a dis-tinct hit in "Pygmalion and Galatea," when it was produced at the New York

The other evening Chicago saw "The Late Mr. Costello." and evidently Washington has little to regret in the fact that it was an absent factor in the Lyceum's week here last spring. One paragrapher re marked that it was too bad that D'Israeli wrote his curiosities of literature so long see in the supervision of one of the large | ago, for he should have included Sydney Grundy. The same pen records a fulsome compliment which will find sympathy in Washington, where Mr. Findley has a town was superb in expression and feeling, and but will tour the larger English cities, rewas convolvingly funny." Mrs. Findley turning in January for an American winter smanner with Tony Commings, Charles Mackay and Mary Saunders in the cor stock at the Castle Square Theater, Boston, but she has retired to resume original role in "The Mysterious Mr. Bugle."

> Passing by the interpretation given ntracte music by Washington orchestras, with the compliment the musicians and Peir leaders deserve, we want to call attention of the leaders to the question of program making. The orchestra plays an important part

> theater. It is an integral part of the entertainment. As such it should harmonize with its environment and contribute to the consistency of things.

Three things are to be considered in making an entr'acte program; the capacity of the musicians, the nature of the production and the character of the audience Not any one of these are first, second, or third in importance, but each of then makes demands for consideration, and consideration of each of them will contribute to a consistent and harmonious

evening The orchestras of the Washington the aters seem capable of playing the best class We have heard Verdi, Rossini, Sounod, Schubert, and even Wagner, played with marked excellence, and DeKoven, Sousa, Herbert, Pueper, Erlwanger, Johnson, Sauteman, Arth and Shroder have appeared on the program, to the exceeding delight of all who have heard them. But the strange mixture of both, or the appearance of one, of the absence of the other at certain times, has broken the harmonies of the occasion.

At one of the theaters last year, during a week of Shakespeare, the musical pro-gram consisted of selections by the leader, Victor Herbert, DeKoven, Nevens and Sousa! It's a long call from Shakespeare to Sousa and Herbert, though they are excellent in their spheres. During the action of a piece the dramatist and actors are working on the emotions and the imagination of an audience, to raise them to a certain pitch. It is distinctly distlinsion izing, after the cutain has descended on a moving and powerful scene, to be disturied by the flippant "routy-tump-tump" of a two step, or the giddy rattle of a polka. Pancy the leantiful scene of "Cam which Armand's father makes the tragic demand of her, she accedes and flies, Armand comes and discovers his loss, the curtain descends and the orchestra plays "A Trip to Coney Island," with instations of steamboats, engines, merry-go

Not only does the dramatic unit vof the or casion demand a better class of music for serious occasions, but the audiences which gather on such occasions are on a higher plane of appreciation. High-class music is not necessarily serious or oppressive. There is plenty of musicianly music by the popular masters which has tune, rhythm, buoyancy and cheerfulness.

Another thing which should receive the erious consideration of our leaders and

inthem after the last curtain. Either "Hall Columbia" or "The Star Spangled Ran ner" ought to be on every program. They are bright and inspiring and they are al-ways grateful to the ear. The custom of playing the national anthem as the audience leaves the theater is followed in Chicago, Boston, New York and other cities. It ought to be the custom in the National Capital, even if it were not

Our three leading theaters have patriotic titles. There is the Lafa yette, named after a hero dear to every true American, and it stands within sight and nearing of the Executive Mansion; the Columbia bears the name of our national patroness; the National Theater is patriotic in its title. Visitors from all over the land and from all lands are in these and out other then one of them except in the name. It v be distinctly fitting the position the thea ters hold as nutional playhouses as well as gratefully inspiring to the people assembled to have the orchestras play the national an them every night.

A Western prose poet contributes this touching etching to the literature of the

tenson's openings:
"Once Again" the doors of the big, dark opera house, which have been closed to all except the janitors, swing open, the box-office is lighted, the call boy comes back with a new suit and the theatergoers who have deserted the hot, busy city for the murmur of the sad, sea waves, do their opera coats and gowns and hestle

cornedy roles, and repeated appearances has been working on a lumber barge all before Washington audiences made him a summer, is seen looking over the head within two weeks the older the older washington audiences made him a summer, is seen togging the place of the stage back to and the other singles of the stage back to at the homeofa relative in New York city.

The part of the electrician from the first entrance of the electrician from the first entrance of the other singles of the stage back to at the homeofa relative in New York city.

"Once Again" the stage manager "has it in" for that chorus girl with the dark hnir.

"Once Again" the low comedian is seen hustling up the stairs of the newspaper ago he had a rousing testimonial and the office, with a big photograph under his only week he played at the National last arm, to make himself popular with the dramatic editor. "Once Again" the chapple is seen stand

aisle and hangs the seats down with a

Once Again't the man in the center of the row develops a terrible thirst at the "Once Again" does the piece of canvas. which has been pasted around the peep

hole, get black with grease paint
"Once again," does the laundry man
charge you 15 cents for doing up two "Once Again" do we hear the property man of the show promise to write a long letter to the property man of the house

"Once Again" does the autograph fiend hand you his pen and tell you that you are the best actor he ever saw. 'Once Again' does the "angel" put his eyes to the peephole and ask, "How's the

"Once Again" does the call boy bring you in the flattest glass of Vichy you ever drank

"Once Again" does the stage-struck youth write you a long letter and tell you all of his troubles.

'Once Again" do you stand in the first entrance and swear when the encore comes and once again do you swear when it don't.

"Once Again" do we hear that old familiar thed made by the leading man as he drops into the ranks of the vaudeville. But "NEVER AGAIN" shall poor Old Hoss "swipe" a red-bot stove and bring down the house.

O. Thursday last at Stratford on-Avonthe oning was done by John Findhay, Dany Company and Ada Rehan gave a per who, in the character of a mineing, delicane, antiquated dandy, recalled the exquisite work of James Lewis in his best days. It

> The title of Otis Skinner's new remantic comedy for the coming season is announced as ' c'rince Eudolph." The action taker place in a mythical German principality a the close of the last century, and deals ereign, who, after neglecting his princess an his country for some years, wakes up to the fact that both his wife and his principality are in the hands of a designing prime minister. The minister has plotted with the people of the country to rise in revolt. His schemes are, for a time, victorious, the peoplerise and the princes and princess are flying from the palace by the revolutionary mob that takes possession of it. The comedy is to be presented for the first time at the Olympic Theater, St. Louis, September 13.

> The list of bookings for the Academy is one of particular excellence this season It reminds one of the pickings this house and all for its own before the high priced attractions divided themselves among three theaters, and one other house claimed half of the popular priced shows. Here is the list to date: Robert Downing, Katie Em mett, a popular star of long standing, who strangely enough, has never before beet to Washington; "Bo-Peep," Palmer Cox's "Brownies." Eugenia Blair, Al Lipman late of the Columbia stock, in "The Indian," Odell Williams in "In the Name of the Czar," the Indian actress Go Wan Go Mohawk. Belle Archer in "A Contented Woman," "A Trip to Chinatown," "The Isle of Champaigne," "Wang," Isham's Octoroons, "1492," "Sowing the Wind," 'Sunshine of Paradise Alley," "North ern Lights, ""Two Little Vagrante." Bes-sie Bonehill in "Little Monte Cristo." "When London Sleeps," "Human Hearts,"
> "At Piney Ridge," "McSorley's Twins,"
> the Rays in "A Hot Old Time," "The City of New York," and "Straight From the

We are now informed that a woman has invented a means of protecting the feet of her sex from the trampling of men as they go out and in between the acts. It consists of an iron case, lined with felt, to be clamped to the floor in front of the seats The top of the case is rounded, so that no ody can be tripped up by it. When a man rises to leave the theater the women in his row have simply to slip their feet into these cases and they are safe; the man can work his way forth and back without hurting them in the least.

Richard Mansfield changes his manager as he would his expression from Jekyl to Hyde. It's really a matter of no consequence to him. Whether it is his pen chant for variety or his belief that intimacy breeds contempt and too long as sociation with him might breed intimacy, are matters not to be lightly considered. He will soon have as large a collection

in that capacity for him, and since then Mansfield has gone quite through the list . Here are some of the theatrical men that have had their names up as directors, in turn, of the Mansfield tours: Augustus Hartz, T. Henry French, John P. Siocum, E. D. Price, W. A. McConnell, J. D. Rodriguez, Daniel Frobman, Charles Ban-croft Dillingham, Hoyt and McKee, and John, Warner. At one Unic. Mansfield John Warner . At one time, Mansfield wanted Charles Frohman to manage him and the late Henry E. Abbey was once considering a scheme by which Abbey, Schoeffel & Grau would look after his

It is definitely announced that the Castle Square Opera Company will open the season at the Columbia September 13 with an elaborate production of "The Beggar Student." This announcement will bring pleasure to lovers of light opera in Washington and they may confidently expect the same splendid productions as were given by this organization during the summer season at the Lafayette They will do two operas each week for a time at least. The company includes as principals Grace Golden, Coula Englander, Bessie Fairbalu, Lizzie Mac-nichol, Gertrude Rutledge, Joseph Shee han, Melville Stewart, Raymond Hitch cock, William Wolff, Artnur Wooley, Richard Kari and Arthur Liebler.

### New Play Bills.

Robert Downing's appearance at th Academy opens the season there this week. Mr. Downing's repertoire has been to arranged as to include "Virginius," the opening bill, with "Othello" for Tues-day night, and the new play, "Day," Laroque" for Wednesday night, which will be its first presentation on any stage. and continued for the remainder of the week until Saturday evening, when 'The Gladiator" will conclude the engagement.

Mr. Downing's company is the he has ever gotten together. Where most stars are satisfied to have one leading lady, it is Mr. howning's pleasure to an nounce three in his support. His players are Miss Adelaide Fitz Allen, of wide experience with Keene, Salvini and other well-known players; Harriet Sterling, Helene T. Porter: Eugene Moore, Edward N. Hoy, C W. Vance, Clement St. Martin. Richard Steele, Charles McMurdy, W. A. Robinson and George A. Holt, to say nothing about a large auxiliary corps of capatile young men and women, who go to mke up a company that have had the widest experience. No pains will be spared in making Mr. Downing's reappearon in this city one to be remembered.

Lovers of high-class vaudeville, such as found in the continuous houses of New York, Boston and Philadelphia and on the roof gardens, will have their appetites gratified at the Grand Opera House this prograweek in the appearance there of Gran's trial. Celebritles, which is a party of standard vaudeville talent. Lew Dockstader heads the list. Two of the leading women are Dora Wiley, "the sweet singer of Maine, and Kittle Mitchell, the fetching American singer. Sam Kyan and Barney Ferguson each contribute acts and the Lalance of the bill is made up of John Marr, Charles T. Aldrich, the tramp juggler, Harry and Jenny Kraemer, the trick bicyclists, and McCarthy and Reynolds.

Miaco's City Club Spectacular Farce Comedy Company will be the attraction at the Lyceum Theater this week, and one of the best, brightest and gayest of bur-lesque entertainments may be confidently anticipated. A real novelty will be introthat is to say, two entirely different programs will be given during the week with complete changes of costumes, scenery, specialties and living pictures. This no doubt will prove a bonanza to this enter prising buriesque impressairo. The bill for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday is as follows: The curtain will rise on the operatic extravaganza "Madam May's First Night." The burlesque entitled "A Countryman's Dream" is said to be hilarious nough to give anyone a nightmare. The adeville portion of the performance will be furnished by Dave Conroy and Phil McFarland, Irish comedians; Lew Palmer, in a pot-pourri of music and fun: Faker and St. John, in their unique interlude, entitled "Rubber:" Anna Lonborg, contralto singer: Fert Leslie and Carrie Fulton, an eccentric comedy due; Dick and Kitty Kummins, in their burlesque, "An Agreeters. The just haif of the week will be taken up with the presentation of "The Gay Girls at Monte Carlo," by Harry and "Mr. Paris at Niagara." by Frank Dun-ont, with original music by

## Dramatic Notes

Dixey is now a villain of vaude stripe. William Gilette is resting at his Hartford home. Melba will sing some of her roles in Eng-

Flutter, ye Johnnie hearts, Clio de Me-

ronde is on the ocean hitherward. Joseph Jefferson has a new great-grand

child. Glen MacDonough is the papa. A would-be dramatic author has copyrighted "A Telltale Eyebrow." It is to

Charles Hoyais writing a vaude ville sketch for Johnstone Bennett and Seth Miller Kent. Charles A. Shaw will again be treasurer

of the Grand Opera House, New York city, The Marquisof Lorne, son-in-law of Queen

Victoria, is said to be finishing a feur-act Scottish historical drama. Parrymore's latest: "I am a self-made

man," said an irrepressible bore. "Yes," said Barry; "who interrupted you?" The Lilliputians have not been in Wash ington for many seasons. Perhaps we will see them this year in their new piece, "The Fair in Midgettown."

The Potomac River Pavilion at Colonial Beach, Va., has the following artists this week. Joseph Loveless, Sol. Goldsmith. Howard Williams, Jim Nolan, Henry Miller, Charles Wymsat, Prof. Hepner, Mme. Curry, S. J. Lewis and Prof. Hubner's brass band

Clay Greene smashes convention in "A Wandering Minstrel," the new play in which Klaw & Erlanger will this season exploit the distinguished actor-musician. Auguste Van Biene. The new play offers no less a novelty than the adventures and isadventures of a German street band.

August 18 was the thirty-fourth anniversary of the matriage of F. F. Mackay and Elizabeth J. Mackay (Sneathan). Three sons have blessed the union-Charles Mackay, leading man of the Castle Square Theater Company, Poston, William A., an artist, whose recent work was the decoration of the Senatorial reading-room in the new Congressional Library, and Edward J., the youngest, an actor.

Charles R. Gilbert, his wife, Argyle Gil ert, and charming little daughter, Ada Vanden Gilbert, all of Washington city, and all of Chauncey Olcott's "Sweet Inniscorra" company, leave today (Sunday) for New York, to begin rehearsals for the coming season, which extends far into next summer, including a spring and summer center door fency to be in birdseye maple tour through Europe, visiting the princi-pal cities of Ireland. Mr. Gilbert is the He will soon have as large a collection of ex-managers as he has of lawsuits.

A. M. Palmer is now to try his hand at it.

It is many years since Mr. Palmer acted

author of "In the Long Run," a new and original melodrama, fully copyrighted by him. He is negotiating with New York managers for production next senson.

And now the comedian wonders why the job has been deserted.

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#### Press Agents' Round Table

The announcement that Robert Downing could innugurate his season tomorrow evening at the Academy has served to inspire his advance agent into writing a new story in honor of the occasion, which new story in honor of the occasion, which is now printed for the first time. Of course the story is in crude shape, this being its first appearance, but before the senson is over and it has been printed 365 times it will no doubt be interesting in the extreme. Twelve years ago when Mr. Downing made his first annual starring tour be was made the recipient of a letter from an ambitious amateur residing in Richmond, who was anxious to go on the stage. In his reply Mr. Downing suggested that after she had made more progress he would be glad to give her a

The following season the girl again wrote stating that she had made considerable progress and felt confident she could safely be entrusted with juvenile roles and young. girlish parts. Her letter came too late, as Mr. Downing's company was complete. Or the two or three following seasons the girl continued to send her annual application each time explaining how thoroughly capuble she was of giving satisfaction, and all that she wanted was a trial.

Years have come and the years have

one, but the time has proved no hindrance o the Richmond girl's desire to join Mr. Downing's company. Among the mail which awaited Mr. Downing's appearance the other morning at the Academy was the twelfth annual application. It was brief, opcise and to the point. It read as follows "My Dear Bob: I trust you will pardon the manner in which I address you, but when one has kept such a continu correspondence, though in vain, I am sure you will not feel offended. This is our twelfth anniversary, and a happy dayit Twelve times have I applied for a position in your company, and twelve times have I been refused as much as a hearing. While atfirst I only wanted to play juvenile roles, after deep reflection, I now feel as though I would be able to play old wom en's parts This will positively be my last application With the hope that I might have secured some encouragement from you, I spent nearly \$1,500 among the various schools of acting, and you will find in me a desperate woman. I will either join your You can have your choice. I expect an in mediate answer and trust to fate. In an ticipation, I sign myself, yours to com-Suzanne E. C --

After Mr. Downing had carefully read the letter, he lost no time in telegraphing his Richmond devotee his hearty congratulations on her approaching marriage.

Frank Daniels has a Jewel of a press agent If the prize for the season's output were to be awarded now the following yarn would

Thus runneth the tale: That this come

dum is building a new house on his place at Rye, N. Y. When he bought the land which constitutes his "farm" it had fou louses on it. Two of these the versatile real estate agent declared had sheltered Washington and other illustrious individ-uals in Revolutionary days, and these decayed examples of early Colonial avenitecture Daniels immediately pulled down. By turns be lived in both of the remaining houses, but after two easons as a comic opera star he deter nined to erect a modern country h and, having selected a design, started its construction. He had never built ouse, but he had been associated with stage carpenters for years, and he knew a thing or two that the architects didn't. And being a generous chap, he thought it only fair to help the contractors with advice

The new house was to have a commodiveranda and supporting columns, and Dar jels asked the bossif he was going to use scrim profile for them. This was all Greek to the contractor, and he was somewhat short in his answers. Finally Daniels

"Where are your star and vampire? "What's them?" asked the contractor "Why, the traps." "Dunno."

Daniels was amazed at the incompetency of the man. He launched forth upon a dissertation regarding traps, told where he wanted them located, and how many he wanted in the house. Said he had an idea for the dining-room that was a wonder lie wanted a big trap, properly counter-weighted, in the middle of the room, so that the dining-table could be laid in the basement, and by touching a butto the trap would open and the table would pop up into the dining-room. Then, when a course was finished, presto! the table would disappear into the basement and come up with the next course all laid. The contractor listened awhile, then edged away from Daniels and quietly took ssion of a batchet, which he clung to all the time Daniels was in the neigh

Daniels said he wanted it built without grooves and the railing to be flippers. He wanted to know if the contractor was go ing to mask in the foundation of the build ing with set rocks, and if he had planned an iron drop for the right first entrance. He also wanted the interior backing of the He was rambling on in this vein when he saw the workmen, led by the contractor,

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Kitty Mitchell. The Tramp Juggler,

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